Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 NEAE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 EB-04 OES-02 TRSE-00 SP-02 OMB-01 L-01
/042 W
----------128656 201508Z /45
P 201314Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3663

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 06449

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: USIRJC
SUBJECT: USIRJC MEETING

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FINANCE MINISTER HUSHANG ANSARY JULY 20, HE INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO ENHANCE STATUS AND FUNCTION OF US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION. I SAID SECRETARY VANCE HAD TOLD ME HE SHARED THIS INTENTION.

2. ANSARY SAID THAT, IN PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE, HE FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE FULL-DRESS MEETING TO INVOLVE "NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION" IN JOINT COMMISSION MATTERS. IT HAD BEEN HIS HOPE TO ARRANGE THIS AS AN EARLY ORDER OF BUSINESS "THIS SUMMER". HOWEVER, HE FELT ENERGY SUBCOMMISSION MEETING WOULD NOW TAKE PRIORITY OVER THE FULL, FORMAL SESSION, WHICH COULD PERHAPS BE HELD IN THE FALL.

3. I SAID I HAD NO PARTICULAR WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT WONDERED HOW ANSARY WOULD REACT TO IDEA OF HAVING MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH SHAH'S STATE VISIT IN NOVEMBER. ANSARY SAID HE THOUGH THIS WOULD BE GREAT IDEA AND ASKED ME MEET WITH HIM AGAIN ON THIS SUBJECT IN EARLY AUGUST.
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4. I TOOK OCCASION TO POINT OUT SEVERAL PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD IN HANDLING JOINT COMMISSION MATTERS AND CITED EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC HIGHWAY TEAM AS CASE IN POINT. ANSARY GAVE ME RATHER SWEEPING ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS "MINOR MATTER". (I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY TO DO THIS.)

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHAT PLANS DEPARTMENT HAS FOR NEXT USIRJC MEETING AND WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH ANSARY IN TERMS OF WASHINGTON MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOVEMBER VISIT BY SHAH. MEETING COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE HELD A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE SHAH'S ARRIVAL AND (ESPECIALLY IF NUCLEAR BILATERAL MATTERS ARE WELL IN TRAIN) PROVIDE SOME SUBSTANCE TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING COURSE OF STATE VISIT. I WILL NEED GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 2.
SULLIVAN

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